(b) if so, what are those services and languages; and

(c) if not, whether Government would take up such schemes in the interest of Indian languages?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) It is now possible to use Indian languages, namely, Hindi, Marathi, Sanskrit, Gujarati, Punjabi, Bangla, Assamese, Oriya, Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam and Urdu in various IT enabled services such as Data Entry & Data Conversion, Content Creation, Multi-media & Animation, Customer Interaction Services, etc.

V.P.T. by private companies

5284. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
PROF. M.M. AGARWAL:
SHRI NANA DESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of such companies which have shown interest after the instruction issued by the Minister of Communications and Information Technology to provide telephone facility in the villages;

(b) the time and the action to be taken by Government against the companies failing in providing telephone facility to the villages and the criteria fixed for the same;

(c) the number of villages where in telephone facility has been provided by the BSNL, so far, alongwith the target fixed for the year 2002-2003; and

(d) The targeted time-limit for providing telephone in such villages which are deprived for such facility?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) The names of such private companies are M/s Tata Teleservices Ltd. M/s Reliance Telecom Pvt.Ltd. M/s HFCL

Infotel Ltd., M/s Hughes Tele. com (India) Ltd. M/s Bharti Telenet Ltd. and M/s Shyam Telelink Ltd.

(b) These private companies have been asked to complete their voluntarily committed unfulfilled V.P.T. obligations by December, 2002 against submission of additional performance bank guarantees and deed of guarantees, failing which action shall be taken as per the provisions contained in their license agreements.

(c) BSNL has provided telephone in 4,77,795 villages so far and the target fixed for the year 2002-2003 is 69,440 V.P.Ts.

(d) New Telecom Policy 1999 (NTP 99) envisages to cover all the 6,07,491 villages in the country by 2002.

Telephone facilities

†5285. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 459 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 22nd November, 2001 and state:

(a) the fact in respect of providing telephone connections to all 15947 applicants by the end of the year 2002 and the actual position by the beginning of second quarter of 2002 and district-wise details of the progress in the regard;

(b) whether the target would be achieved by the end the year 2002; and

(c) the details of the action taken by Government along with financial position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) and (b) 10003 villages in Uttaranchal have already been provided with telecom facilities as on 31.03.2002. District-wise details are given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below). Out of 5944 villages left, 337 villages are uninhabited and remaining 5607 villages are planned to be provided with telecom facilities by December,2002. Out of 5607 revenue villages, about 1600 villages

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.